

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
USIE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 EA-07  
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O 011820Z MAR 77  
FM USMISSION OECD PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 5513

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OECD, ECON  
SUBJECT: TIMING OF OECD MINISTERIAL

REFS: (A) OECD PARIS 4810, (B) OECD PARIS 4012,  
(C) OECD PARIS 5300

1. SECGEN REPORTED TO HEADS OF DEL ON FEBRUARY 28  
THAT INFORMAL SOUNDINGS INDICATED GENERALLY NEGATIVE  
REACTIONS TO POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING MINISTERIAL IN  
EARLY MAY OR IN APRIL (REF A). WITH RESPECT TO  
ALTERNATIVES, SECGEN THOUGHT JUNE 22-24 DATES SUGGESTED  
BY BRITISH IN LETTER CIRCULATED AMONG PERMREPS  
(REPORTED TO ALBRECHT EUR/RPE BY PHONE) WERE ENTIRELY  
FEASIBLE SINCE THOSE DATES PROVIDE (A) ADEQUATE PAUSE  
FOR HARD-PRESSED SENIOR OFFICIALS AFTER HEAVY SCHEDULE  
OF SPRING MEETINGS, (B) MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR  
SECRETARIAT TO PRESENT MINISTERS WITH NEW ECONOMIC  
ASSESSMENT AND FORECASTS FOR NEXT 6/L2 MONTHS AND  
ENABLE MEETING OF EPC TO BE HELD PRIOR TO MINISTERIAL  
(C) COME SUFFICIENTLY AFTER CIEC MINISTERIAL SO  
THAT MINISTERS COULD REFLECT IN FUTURE-ORIENTED WAY  
ON CIEC RESULTS. SECGEN NOTED THAT BRITISH HAD ALSO  
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SUGGESTED MID-JULY DATES, BUT HE FELT JULY WOULD BE  
INCONVENIENT FOR MANY COUNTRIES.

2. ENSUING DISCUSSION REVEALED NO DELEGATION WITH  
EXCEPTION OF AUSTRIAN HAD AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT THE JUNE  
DATES NOW, ALTHOUGH GENERAL REACTION TO THOSE DATES  
WAS POSITIVE. CANADIAN DEL POINTED OUT THAT DATES

OF CIEC MINISTERIAL WERE NOT YET FIRM, WITH LATE MAY REMAINING LIKELY; HE ALSO NOTED THAT LATE JUNE OECD MINISTERIAL COULD PROBABLY BE COMBINED WITH THE PROPOSED EARLY SUMMER IEA MINISTERIAL. CONFIRMING THIS LATTER POINT, SECGEN SAID JUNE 22-24 DATES PROVIDED GREAT FLEXIBILITY: OECD AND IEA MINISTERIALS COULD BE HELD BACK-TO-BACK OVER THE THREE DAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, IEA MEETING JUNE 22 AND OECD MEETING JUNE 23 AND 24 FOLLOWING PATTERN OF L975 MEETING; OR OECD MINISTERIAL COULD BEGIN ON AFTERNOON OF FIRST DAY AND END AT NOON OF THIRD DAY AS HAD BEEN CONVENIENT IN SOME YEARS PAST. CHANGING FOCUS OF DISCUSSION, GERMAN DEL ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING OECD MINISTERIAL BACK-TO-BACK WITH MARSHALL PLAN COMMEMORATION NOW SET FOR JUNE 2-3 (REFS B AND C). SECGEN OBVIOUSLY NOT ENTHUSIASTIC OVER TIMING OF THIS ARRANGEMENT SAYING MARSHALL PLAN COMMEMORATION HAD NOT ORIGINALLY BEEN SET UP TO BE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE UNDERSTANDING THESE TWO OPTIONS ARE BEING PUT TO SECRETARIES VANCE AND BLUMENTHAL WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT THEY CHOOSE THE JUNE 22-24 SPAN. CONSENSUS IS BUILDING UP RAPIDLY ON THESE DATES AND WE NEED URGENTLY AN EXPRESSION OF PREFERENCE FROM WASHINGTON. TURNER

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## Message Attributes

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